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The Orthodox Herald

Celebrating our 45th year

Volume 45, No. 1 ISSUE 528 **MAY 1996** **35¢ Per Copy**

NO PERSONAL OPINIONS

On Sunday, May 26 the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council are commemorated. The readings for the day are very interesting, especially Acts 20:16-18, 28-36. In this reading St. Paul says: "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore, watch..."

By the year 325 when the First Ecumenical Council met at Nicea, people had many different views concerning matters of religion. Perhaps, much as now, they accepted some of what they were taught, did not think about some and had personal opinions on what should be done or taught. To stem this situation, the Council was called and started to formulate the Nicene Creed, which was a personal and not a communal declaration of faith. (Sorry to report that in some places the word I believe has been changed to we changing the intent of the Council.)

The Fathers of the Councils did not promote or include what they thought was right but what they found in Scripture. "The questions the Fathers considered were not what they supposed Holy Scripture might mean, nor what they, from a priori arguments, thought would be consistent with the mind of God, but something entirely different, to wit, what they had received. They understood their position to be that of witnesses, not that of exegetes. They recognized but one duty resting upon them in this respect – to hand down to other men that good thing the Church had received according to the command of God. The first requirement was not learning, but honesty. The question they were called

(Continued on Page 3), Col. 1

There is no special time for prayer,
One can pray 'most anywhere,
When things aren't going quite your way –
Pause a moment, just to pray...

MOTHERS OF THE PARISH

The Bible tells us in Titus 2:3-5 that older women should serve as role models and teachers in the Church, especially for young wives and mothers.

"The older women should be reverent in behavior, not given to malicious gossip or given to too much to drink, but teachers of that which is good that they may teach the young women to love their husbands and their children. They should be sensible, pure-minded, good housekeepers, respecting the authority of their husbands in order that the word of God should not be discredited."

How fortunate is a parish which has these older women among its members. Years ago these women were the "babas" of the church. They seemed to know the services of the church, they helped at all parish community functions, and they were there to guide the younger women.

Many of them stood at the front of the church so that they would not be distracted in prayer. They mouthed the words of the priest as well as the responses. Sometimes we could hear the sound shu, shu as they became involved in prayer and became louder than they realized.

The older women were called on to help with wedding arrangements. They knew all the protocol. They were much more efficient and less costly than the present day wedding consultants who don't know a thing about the Orthodox wedding service and the traditions. They were also contacted at baptism time and knew all about the krisma and rules governing the new mother and child.

They also went to the home of those who had a death. They helped prepare the house, cooked meals and again knew about such things as what was considered proper behavior during the

(Continued on Page 3), Col. 1

WHAT'S IN A NAME

On the fifth Sunday of Easter, the Gospel reading is from John 4:5-42. In it we learn about the meeting of Christ with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well.

Her name is not given in the gospel neither is anything more said about her. According to tradition, however, she was given the name Photina (Svetlaya or Svetlana in Slavonic) upon her baptism. Her name means "The Enlightened."

We read in verse 39 that: "And many of the Samaritans of that city believe in Him because of the word of the woman who testified..." She was the first missionary and she also had great influence with her family. All her children, 2 sons and 5 daughters, also accepted Christ. They then left for Carthage, where they were active in evangelizing. They were arrested, taken to Rome where they were imprisoned. This was during the reign of Nero. He hated the Christians and had thousands killed. Imagine his anger when he found that his daughter Domnina had become a Christian under the influence of Photina.

Photina also had the power of healing and among those whom she healed was St. Sebastian, who was stationed in Rome serving as an imperial guard. When it was found that he was a Christian and would not recant, he was shot with arrows, healed by Photina and then endured more torture.

Among those whom she brought to Christianity were ten people who were subsequently sainted: Victor, Photine, Iusia, Anatol, Photo, Photida, Paraskeva, Kryiakia, Sebastian and Domnina. They all died as martyrs.

She was finally killed by being thrown into a well. This was chosen because she had met Christ at a well. The year was 66, the date March 20, on which day she is found on the Saints' Calendar.

Evidently, the power of Christ and the grace of the Holy Spirit continued to move within her like "a fountain of water

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

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CHRONOLOGY

MAY 1996

WE ARE BEGINNING our 45th year of publication.

ALTERNATE EDUCATION for Orthodox Children will be the topic at a seminar on May 16-19 in Methuen, MA. For info write: St. Xenia Orthodox Church, PO Box 147, Methuen, MA 01844-0147 or call Matushka Carol at (508) 521-0253.

MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS, TEX, the 2nd annual Southwest Orthodox Conference will discuss music practicum, chanting, confession, home schooling, etc. The conference will be held either June 6-9 or 27-30. Write: Fr. Seraphim Holland, Rt. 2, Box 96C, Anna, TX 75409.

THE DON COSSACK CHORUS AND DANCERS, conducted by George Margitich, is holding a concert on May 4 at the Pottsville (PA) High School. Tickets are $15 or $12.50 advance. Contact: Emil Simodejka at (717) 544-5603 or Paul Lohin at (717) 544-3418. The original Byzantine Male Choir of PA is sponsoring the concert.

THE NEWARK MUSEUM in New Jersey will host the exhibition, Heaven On Earth: Orthodox Treasures of Siberia and North America from April 17 to July 15. The 237 works of liturgical art will reflect the unique character of the Orthodox faith. Along with the exhibit a series of lectures and concerts will be held. For more info call: (201) 596-6636.

FABERGE IN AMERICA contains many of the Faberge Easter eggs and other items, which have been in the possession of Americans from Marjorie Merriweather Post, Malcolm Forbes to Joan Rivers. It is on exhibit in San Francisco from May 25-July 28, Richmond, VA from Aug. 24-Nov. 3, New Orleans from Dec. 7-Feb. 9, 1997 and Cleveland from March 12, 1997-May 11. Worth seeing.

SUICIDE rate among Americans 65 and older climbed to 19.1 per 100,000 persons, the highest rate of any age group according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Experts say it could be the result of living longer with chronic illnesses, or the social isolation of the elderly, or the growing acceptance of the right-to-die movement.

THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA gave a $500,000 grant to help the Russians to start their own groups modeled after those in the Free World. The Americans oversaw the Siberian region, the British and French scouts were responsible for Moscow and St. Petersburg. The project ran from 1992-1995. The project continues in other CIS nations. Write: International Division, Boy Scouts of America, PO Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079.

THE GREEK ARCHDIOCESE will hold a Divine Liturgy in Central Park on June 30 as part of its Clergy-Laity Congress. To underscore the diversity, the liturgy will be multi-lingual using the languages spoken within the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese. A 300-voice chorale and 40-voice male Byzantine choir will sing the responses. Over 70 priests will serve, identical robes are being made for the celebrants.

OLD MILITARY UNIFORMS and jeans are being purchased by Farley Enterprises at 801-224-3130 Ext. 77. You can get as much as $150 for old chinos.

50,000 CHILDREN From 300 Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod churches have been packing individual boxes containing a personal note, a postcard from their town, Bible stories in Russian, pencils, erasers and rulers to send to Russian children.

LOCATED ON THE SLOPE OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES in the Garden of Gethsemane is the Russian Orthodox Church of St. Mary Magdalene. It is one of the most recognizable landmarks of Jerusalem. There is a women's monastery on the grounds with 28 nuns from all over the world. They paint ikons, embroider vestments, hand-paint Easter eggs, make prayer ropes and bookmarks among other handcrafts. These articles are for sale, write Abbess Anna, Convent of St. Mary Magdalene, PO Box 19190, Jerusalem, Israel. The funds will be used to help restore the church building, which is rapidly deteriorating. Funds for Restoration may be sent to The Gethsemane Restoration Fund. Why not contact Abbess Anna for items for your church bazaar!

CARPATHO-RUS SONGS AND DANCES on 2 cassettes are available for $23 from Jerry Jumba, 312 Hamilton St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136. The music was recorded by a 10-piece folk orchestra and 44 singers. A complete song book with translation is included.

"CHRISTIAN" ROCK MUSIC is being condemned in Russia. The Congregations of the Unregistered Union of Churches stated: "For 30 years we have suffered intense persecution, and now freedom is bringing another great harm to our churches. The damage is coming from the Christians in America, who are sending rock music and evangelists accompanied by rock bands. Many come with Bible in hand and rock music. We are embarrassed by this image of Christianity... We need spiritual bread; please give us true bread not false cakes... We were in prison for 26 years for Christ's sake. We were not allowed to have Christian music, but rock music was used as a weapon against us day and night to destroy our souls. We could only resist by prayer and fasting."

IN PALEKH MUSEUM (Russia) an exhibit of the "Icons of the Mother of God" opened to the public. Many icons are dated from the 15th and 16th century and were hidden during Soviet times to preserve them. The fine work would be appreciated by many who purchased plates sold in the US several years ago, which were made in Palekh.

USED EYEGLASSES AND SUNGLASSES are needed. The Gift of Sight Program is sponsored by LensCrafters and Lions Clubs International. Call 1-800-541-5367

•No Personal Opinions

upon to answer was not: What do I think probable, or even certain, from Holy Scripture? but, What have I been taught, what has been entrusted to me to hand down to others?... The question was not whether it could be proved to the satisfaction of the assembled Fathers from Holy Scripture, but whether it was the traditional faith of the Church."

So many years have passed since the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council stated these views concerning traditions and Scripture. We still state that the Orthodox Church is based on Holy Tradition and Holy Scripture. We are entrusted to hand it down to others as we have been taught.

•What's In A Name

welling up to her eternal life."

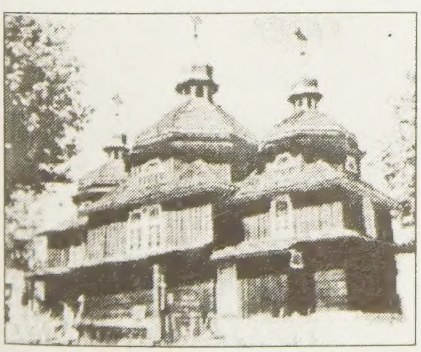
May it also be so with us.

•Mothers of the Parish

mourning period, what to put in the deceased hands, etc.

Unfortunately, during the fifties life in the parish changed. Many women were no longer interested in being the nurturers and the repositories of tradition and custom. They became involved in other ways. The gender barrier was broken when women went on the "men's side." Segregation by sex was slowly abolished. Then women were elected as parish committee members. They started to take a bigger part in the services themselves.

The "babas" are now, for the most part, gone. This is a big loss. Those parishes that still have a Mrs. — or Mrs. — or Baba— are among the fortunate.



Active parish church in Hunkovce in Galicia, present Southern Poland.

I DIDN'T KNOW

That the Baptism Service in the Orthodox Church has been retained in its ancient form – that is for adults. In the early Church, adults were the ones that were usually baptized.

That when a person is over 7 years of age, he is baptized only after being examined as to knowledge of the faith and expresses his own desire to be baptized.

That the baptism differs according to whether the person had been previously baptized and to what faith. The person being baptized must renounce the errors of his former belief. For example, those from Islam, Jewish or members of some non-Christian faiths, etc.

That the Baptism Service is the same for all those under 7 years of age whether their parents are Orthodox or not.

That in extreme cases, a layperson may baptize. The baptism is not repeated but only the Chrismation is done.

That it is not customary for the mother to be present at the baptism.

That the godfather must be at least 15 years old, the godmother at least 13.

The Orthodox Church baptizes infants on the faith of their parents or godparents. Present at the baptism are the godparents, to whom the faith of the child is entrusted before the church members. When the child grows older, the godparents are obliged to teach him the faith and to endeavor to help him live a Christian life. This is a sacred responsibility the godparents take upon themselves, and they sin grievously if they neglect this duty.

The gifts of the Spirit are given on the faith of others, as told in the Gospels. One example is in Mark 2:5: "When Jesus saw their faith, He said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

Some denominations say that babies should not be baptized and criticize the Orthodox for baptizing infants. The foundation for the baptism of infants is that baptism has replaced the Old Testament circumcision, which was done when the infant was 8 days old. Christian baptism is sometimes referred to as "circumcision made without hands." Col. 2:11-12.

The Apostles baptized whole families in which without doubt there were children. The Lord Himself said: "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the Kingdom of God." Luke 18:16.

Baptism is spiritual birth, and as such a person is born once, so also the Sacrament of Baptism is done once. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." Eph. 4:5

LOST

On the fortieth day after Easter, we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Since it always falls on a Thursday, it is lost in the trilogy of the Resurrection, the Ascension and Pentecost.

The feast commemorates the return of our Redeemer to heaven. It is a day of victory and triumph and is beautifully and dramatically told in Luke 24:36-53. We can also read related material in Mark 16:14-20, John 20:19-23 and Matthew 28:16-20. Luke's gospel tells us about His leaving and is the gospel read in church on this day. It tells us that as the apostles listened to the Lord, He was lifted up and was soon embraced by a cloud which took Him out of sight.

Despite the difficulty of putting it into a few words, it is important for our own faith that we should understand something of what we mean when we say that we believe in a Resurrected and Ascended Lord.

Why is the Ascension important? Because it assures us that God is eternal as Our Lord revealed Him to be during His earthly sojourn in the flesh as a person. Jesus ascended in order that He might fill all things and be to all people, everywhere, what He was to Peter, James and John.

The Resurrection and the Ascension being part of one trilogy put the seal of victory upon the life of Jesus Christ.

This belief is so fundamental that it was put into the Nicene Creed, which we proclaim at most services. "He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father." These are precious and clear words.

WINTER GRACE

Does it ever seem to you that some days everything goes wrong? Do problems mount up? Does worry compete with anxiety? Maybe it is our human nature, but when we get the pits, we lose all sight of blessings.

It is hard to find something good in bad situations, but believe me, it's there! Seeing the bad only compounds the situation, destroying hope and faith.

In the worst situation, there are always more blessings than problems and we must look for them.

Take a sheet of paper. Write all of your problems on the front. Turn it over and write all of your blessings on the back. You will discover more blessings than problems.

"Dear precious Lord. Thank You that with You all things are possible. Thank You for our many blessings. May we be a blessing to others. In Jesus name. Amen."

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Marea,

Yak tam kolo vas? Toot everything OK teper, noh yah bulla taka hvora, zhe yah thinking that yah gonna die. Tak peeshlo.

One day yah feeling taka barz bad. Kolee yah stala in the morning me holova tak bolela zhe aspirenee neh helpooh yut. Me throat takee raw, zhe ya neh mohla kazatee slovo. Me nose takee all stopped up, zhe yah neh mohlah breathing. Ee yah mala takee temperature zhe yah mohlah noseetee me staree bikini. In other words, yah one sick girl.

Me next door neighbor kazhe me zhe yah got something more tham a cold ee zhe yah better see a doctor. Noh yak? Doctor neh preedeh doh houzuh a yah feeling too sick to go doh officeooh. Noh yah neh mam choice. Yah got bundled up ee me next door neighbor feeling sorry nah meneh volunteered drivovatee meneh do doctorah.

Tam yah checkallah couple hours. Believe me tyotya Mareea, yak cheloveek neh sick kolee predey doh officyu toh budey hvoree poka vedeet doctora.

Me doctor poveel me zhe yah "one sick girl" ee ohn dall me shot ee prescription nah pillyulee. Yah dumam zhe yah gonna die poka preshla domu. Yah bulla taka sick 1 day, 2 day, 3 day. Nasha krayankah calloola mene nah telephone. Finally ohna kazhe zhe ohna preydai doh mene. Vee znayaytyeh krayankoo – ohna mayeh lekarstva nah shitkee conditions. Ohna make me wash up, dala cheestee platya nah bed, then ohna rubbed yakes grease nah me chest. Then ohna dala me shoska peetee. Ohna make me go to posteli, ee ohna poklala perenu nah mene.

Yah neh znam shto ohna dala me peetee noh yah tak zaspala! Yah tak sweat zhe koll yah waked up yah bulla mokra noh me temperaturah went down. Yah finally feeling good. Krayanka ne telling me what kind of grease – che goose che woodchuck. Ee ohna neh kazeh shto dala me peete. Ohna me say – it worked didn't it? Ohna right.

Budte zdrovee,
Hanya

ALASKA FUND

Helping to send copies of The Orthodox Herald to Alaska are: Anna Tanchak, Don and Carole Holobinko, Olga Dzendzel, Anna Horhato, Olga L. Anderson, Anna Dorozynski, Ethel Watlock, Marguerite Czekalski, Anon (2).



There is very little information to be found concerning the depicted ikon of the Old Russian ikon of the Mother of God, which is brought to our attention on May 4. Prior to the Revolution it was located in the men's monastery in Staro-Rus in the Novgorod diocese. From tradition, we learn that the ikon was originally brought from Constantinople in the 10th century. It was located in Staro-Rus until 1570 when it was transferred to the Tikhvin Mother of God Monastery during a dreadful epidemic. The epidemic was alleviated when many prayed before this ikon. It remained in Tikhvin until 1888 when by decision of the Holy Synod it was returned to its original home in Staro-Rus. This transferral was done with great pageantry.

Ikons are composed using several patterns. One of them is Hodegetria, which means one who guides toward the road to eternal salvation. The Staro-Rus ikon is in the Hodegetria style. Other well-known ikons in this style among others are the Georgian, Tikhvin, Iviron, Smolensk and Chernigov. To help identify this type of ikon, note the following: The Mother of God holds the Christ Child on her left arm while her right hand points to Him. She is guiding us to Christ the Saviour, who holds a scroll in His left hand and is giving a blessing with His right hand.

The riza, or metal covering on this ikon is very elaborate. The figures are identified in Greek letters; but there is a medallion on the left side which tells us in Church Slavonic letters that this is the Staro-Rus ikon of the Mother of God. We can see that the riza is studded with jewels. It must have been very much revered to be so heavily adorned. Wouldn't it be something if we could see the ikon?

Dabs of Thoughts

You cannot estimate prayer-power. Prayer is as vast as God because He is behind it. Prayer is as mighty as God because He has committed Himself to answer it.

A Christian is meant to be different from other people: he is to have at the heart of his life a quality that stems from his religious faith and shows its effect on his thoughts and actions.

On May 2 it will be 60 years of the world premiere of the symphonic tale for children "Peter and the Wolf." Written by Sergei Prokofiev it was seen in Moscow first.

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, some people must really love the church.

O Lord, God of Being, giver of all good gifts, I praise You for all the wonders You have shown me. Your almighty hand has both given me life and sustained me through all adversity. You have given me all my loved ones and the beauty of the world. I thank You, my God, for all these marvels so far beyond my feeble ability to understand. If the gifts are this wonderful, how much more so the giver! Amen.

Laughter is the shock absorber that softens and minimizes the bumps of life.

The Church's theological literature is so drenched with the universal language of Holy Scripture that it successfully communicates the Gospel of Salvation to a spiritually wounded world.

The largest university building in the world is the Lomonosov State University on the Lenin Hills, south of Moscow, Russia. It stands 787.4 feet tall, has 32 stories and contains 40,000 rooms. It was constructed 1949-53.

Some people are making such thorough preparations for rainy days they are not enjoying today's sunshine.

After the sale of Alaska to the US in 1867 for $7,200,000, the headquarters of the Russian Orthodox Church in America was moved to San Francisco. In the beginning of this century it moved east to New York City.



EDITORS' NOTES

This is a significant month for us. We start the 45th year of publication of The Orthodox Herald, we will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary and Father Basil's 50th year of ordination. How fortunate and grateful we are to have reached these important dates.

We want to thank all who sent in prayer books for distribution to the newly-arrived and usually newly-baptized Orthodox Christians coming from Eastern Europe.

This is such a beautiful month here in northeast Pennsylvania. Just thinking of the beauty helps us endure the winter months. This year, we surpassed the snowfall we had two years ago, which broke all records. All the snow helped raise the water level in the wells and reservoirs and the fear of a shortage of water this summer is abated.

We're looking forward to meeting the members of our Heritage Tours and other friends at the arch at St. Tikhon's Monastery, following the Divine Liturgy on Monday, May 27. Plans for the 3rd Heritage Trip from Sept. 5 to 16 are being finalized. The prices are increasing so rapidly, we may not have a Heritage Tour next year.

The Stroyens

BASIC FACTS (10)

The liturgical services in the Orthodox Church are solemn and elaborate. They are essentially that of the earlier centuries of Christianity. They are most fully and completely observed in the monasteries where a complete cycle of services is held. However, even in the smallest and poorest chapel, the structured service appeals to all the senses of the worshipper. Incense, icons, the chant or music all add to outerworldliness. No sculptured images (statutes) and no instrumental music will be seen or heard, although there are pictorial representations (icons) of Christ, the Apostles, the Saints and Biblical scenes which are mentioned in the Bible, These icons are painted according to a strict set of guidelines.

The important service is the Divine Liturgy, the chief parts of which are instructional and the celebration of the Eucharist. There are three Liturgies served: those of St. John Chrysostom, which is most commonly served; St. Basil the Great, which is essentially the same as the Liturgy of St. John but has more and longer penitent prayers added; and that of St. Gregory, which is called the Presanctified Liturgy because the Holy Gifts for communion are prepared at a preceding service.

There are no so-called "silent liturgies" or "private masses." A priest cannot serve a liturgy if there is no one in church for it is no longer a liturgy or "common work."

Two liturgies are not allowed to be celebrated in the same church simultaneously or following one another on the same altar. A Liturgy cannot be served by the same priest or on the same altar more than once a day. Moreover, a priest must be fasting when he celebrates the Liturgy.

Necessary for each liturgy is a "Corporal" or "Antimins," which is a special cloth, with the depiction of Christ in the tomb and the four evangelists on it and a particle of a saint sewed into it. This is specially blessed by a bishop for every church in his diocese.

* * * * * * * *

INTERRUPTIONS

When you are exasperated by interruptions, try to remember that the very frequency and extent of your interruptions may be the measure of the valuableness of your life. Only people who are full of help and strength are burdened with other people's needs.

The interruptions which we chafe at are the credentials of our indispensability. The greatest condemnation anyone can incur and the greatest danger to beware of is to be left comfortably alone.

* * * * * * * *

MISSION FUND

Helping to send copies of this paper to do "Mission Work" are: Anna Tanchak, Olga Dzendzel, Anna Horhato, Olga L. Anderson, Ethel Watlock, Anon (2).

• Kitchen Corner

Wash mushrooms, blanch by placing into hot water for a minute, drain well, brown with onions in butter.

To make kugelis (Babka) with mushroom stuffing, place half of the potato mixture into baking pan. Top with mushrooms and then with other half of potato mixture. Bake as above.

We thank Mary Ann Selecky whose recipe we used for kugelis. Variations from Byleorussian Cuisine:

1. Add 1 tsp. marjoram.
2. Bake in greased casserole (preferably stoneware).
3. Serve with butter and sour cream.

MEMORIAL DAY

This year, we celebrate Memorial Day on May 27. It is the day we remember those who made the supreme sacrifice for the freedom we now enjoy.

For many people, the only thought they give to this day is that they are off from work and it is the time to get out the grill, boat and picnic table – for summer is about to begin.

But many years ago the ladies of the South were concerned that the graves of the Confederate dead should not be neglected. As they decorated the graves, it just seemed natural and proper to also tend the graves of Northern soldiers who were buried in the vicinity.

From this simple act of humanity the practice grew. It became known as "decoration" day and was soon formalized into a national holiday.

During the month of May, graves of veterans will be visited and decorated with Old Glory. Living veterans will recognize and honor those who have gone before them. All will pray to God to be merciful to their departed comrades.

As flags are placed on the graves of the veterans, may we bring to mind the solemn inscription found on the Confederate monument at Arlington National Cemetery:

"Not for fame or reward ... not for place or rank ... not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity ... but in simple obedience to duty as they understood it, these men suffered all ... sacrificed all ... dared all ... and died."



Whenever I get a new cookbook, I look for the ethnic recipes. Most of the books have a recipe for borsch, pierogies, kulich, hrutka, mushroom machanka. I was pleased to find several recipes for potato kugelis in the Orthodox Christian Kitchen, published by the choir of SS Peter and Paul Church, 5244 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60609 and sold for $15. We had another name for kugelis; it was babka. I found several recipes for this in my Byleorussian Cuisine. The recipes in both books are very similar. However, the later book adds a recipe for a mushroom stuffing. If you wish, you can add it to the basic recipe for potato kugelis given here.

Potato Kugelis (Babka)

10 large potatoes
1 medium onion
5 slices bacon
1/2 cup hot milk, preferably canned milk
3 eggs
2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper

Peel and grate the potatoes and onion. Cut bacon in narrow strips and fry until crisp. Pour bacon and fat over the potatoes. Add the hot milk. Beat one egg at a time and stir into mixture. Season with salt and pepper. Pour into greased 9x13 baking pan. Bake in 400° oven for 15 minutes. Reduce oven heat to 375° and bake 45 minutes longer. Cut into squares and serve with sour cream.

Mushroom Stuffing

1/2 cup sliced mushrooms
2 onions, chopped
2 Tbls. butter

(Continued on Page 5), Col. 3

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MAY 1996

1 John 6:35-39
2 John 6:40-44
3 John 6:48-54
4 John 15:17-16:2
5 John 5:1-15
6 John 6:56-69
7 John 10:1-19
8 John 7:14-30
9 John 8:12-20
10 John 8:21-30
11 John 8:31-42
12 John 4:5-42
13 John 8:42-51
14 John 8:51-59
15 John 6:5-14
16 John 9:39-10:9
17 John 10:17-28
18 John 10:27-38
19 John 9:1-38
20 John 11:47-57
21 John 12:19-36
22 John 12:36-47
23 Luke 24:36-53
24 John 14:1-11
25 John 14:10-21
26 John 17:1-13
27 John 14:27-15:7
28 John 16:2-13
29 John 16:15-23
30 John 16:23-33
31 John 17:18-26

St. Alexis (Toth) - 7 May
Mother's Day - 12 May
Ascension Day - 23 May

BIBLE STUDY

All of the May Sunday readings from St. John are very long. This is especially true of the one for May 19, which is from John 9:1-38 and concerns the man born blind.

There are six times in the gospels that concern the healing of blindness. These can be found in Matthew 9:27-31:29-34; Mark 8:22-26; and the reading from John 9:1-38.

However, this is the only time in which we are told that the man healed was blind from birth. Because of this, the healing attracted much notice and wonder, for "since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind." (John 9:32)

One of the verses from this reading is quoted regularly and found on many greeting cards, wall hangings, etc. It is verse 5: "I am the Light of the world." In giving sight to one born blind, Jesus proclaims a far deeper and more glorious truth – that He has come to dispel the clouds of spiritual darkness, and to give light to the souls of men born spiritually blind.

All of us are blind to spiritual matters to a certain extent. These blind spots interfere with us seeing clearly. If we turn to God and use what He shows us, we may dissolve these blind spots and get more light to our souls.

MOTHER'S DAY

For a long time, we tended to think that mothers were all alike. They loved their children and would do what was best for them. The last few decades this picture has changed, as we read and hear of mothers who abuse their children and allow other people, usually boyfriends, to do the same. They look on while the little ones are tortured and often killed.

Why this change?

One reason may be that our contemporary society fails to acknowledge the personal or cultural significance of motherhood. Instead, the stereotype is of a domestic figure whose main role is not to subordinate herself to the needs of her family. What were once the role and influence of mothers which was admired by both men and women as the most important of all professions became one that was denigrated.

Mothers are the greatest influence on our lives both for good or bad. Fortunate are those who had mothers who gave them roots by creating a protective and loving environment so that one day they would have the "wings" to set out on their own with a sense of responsibility, compassion, and respect for themselves and others.

On May 12, we celebrate Mother's Day. The best gift you can give your mother is a prayer. Motherhood is not always appreciated as fully as it should be by our contemporary society. It is high time that we laud the good mothers and restore the integrity of motherhood.

PRESS FUND

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NEW GENERATION

A woman developed a bad case of laryngitis, much to the confusion of her 2-year-old son. He climbed onto her lap, pulled her mouth open and peered inside, saying, "What's wrong, Mommy? Did someone steal your batteries?: